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30 January 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Safety Division, OMS

FROM : D Chief, Security Staff, NBPO/OL

SUBJECT : New Building Safety

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1. We have been told the Agency has no interest in the safety of the New Building construction site because only construction, and GSA personnel are at risk there. I wish to inform you that the Chief, Security Staff, the undersigned, and [] are Agency Staff employees and we supervise 50 Independent Contractors, all of whom work at the New Building site. Our specific duties include keeping a security presence on this site whenever anyone else is there. We open the site every morning and secure it every night. Before we secure the site we physically check every floor of the New Building. I therefore submit that we Agency employees and Agency contractors are at equal, or greater, risk than other workers on site regarding safety hazards we are exposed to.

2. It is of particular concern to me that there are ongoing life-threatening safety hazards in the New Building to which we are continually exposed. Centex, the prime contractor, has made only sporadic, half-hearted attempts to make the workplace safe. As a result the building towers are not being bolted up as OSHA regulations require. Stairwells, and other floor openings do not have the needed barriers on all floors, as required. Poor housekeeping, the presence of gasoline for generators and the lack of interest by Centex have increased the fire hazard beyond OSHA-acceptable levels, however there are no fire extinguishers kept in the building, as specifically required. When a plastic weather cover caught fire on Friday, 24 January the Centex Safety Officer had to bring a fire extinguisher from the Centex office trailer to put it out. I alerted Centex and the NBPO two weeks before an ironworker fell off a stair and broke his wrist that the stairways were a life-threatening hazard. After the injury, the particular stair the man fell from was made safer. Hazards still exist around the other stairs and ladders.

3. I was told that the Agency wasn't interested because Agency personnel were not at risk. Must I or one of my people be injured or killed in the New Building before the Agency recognizes that there is an Agency presence there now? Please review your position on this matter as soon as possible. I believe a New Building safety survey will verify the above. Your recommendation to the NBPO and GSA to withhold Centex performance payments until they have made the work site safe would provide the impetus for Centex to act and resolve the life-threatening problems we now face on a daily basis.

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